

REMARKS

Applicant notes once again that her counsel has relocated her office. Please change the correspondence address in the application to:

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Applicant believes a change of address form has previously been submitted in the application. Nevertheless, Applicant submits herewith a change of address form. Applicant requests the Examiner to contact Applicant's counsel Ingrid McTaggart at (503) 230-7934 if there are any questions regarding counsel's address.

This Response is being filed within three months of the Office Action outstanding, dated April 18, 2007. Claim 15 has been amended. New claims 23 and 24 have been added. No additional claim fee is required.

In the Office Action dated April 18, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by David (U.S. Pat. No. 5,188,323). David discloses an Ambulatory Support

Apparatus designed to support a medical fluid container (column 1, line 8 and column 2, line 29). As shown in David's FIGS. 1 and 4, hanger 14 including rod 40 supports a fluid bag 15 at its top surface. Bag 15 may swing, pivot or otherwise move relative to hanger 14 and rod 40. Bag 15 includes a fluid outlet port on its lower surface (not labeled).

In contrast, Applicant's claim 15 recites an "easel" defined by Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, page 393, as "a frame for supporting something (as an artists canvas)." Accordingly, the commonly understood definition of "easel" includes a frame for supporting an artist work piece. A stand for a fluid bag wherein the bag is allowed to move relative to the stand, as shown in David, would not and should not be considered an "easel." The Examiner is ignoring the term "easel" in Applicant's claim 15 by rejecting the claim based on an ambulatory stand that is not structured to support an artist work piece. For this reason, Applicant believes claim 15, without amendment, is in condition for allowance and Applicant respectfully requests the same.

Nevertheless, Applicant has amended claim 15 herein to recite a "horizontal support member structured to support an artist work piece." Support for this amendment is shown

in Applicants FIGS. 1 and 2 which show a horizontal support member 54 that is structured to support artist work piece 80. Such a support member is not taught or suggested by David and Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of independent claim 15 and dependent claim 17 and to allow these claims.

By this Response Applicant has added new claim 23 that includes the limitations of claim 15 and further recites "said horizontal support member structured to support a lower surface of an artist work piece." David does not teach or suggest structure for supporting an artist work piece, or supporting a lower surface of such an artist work piece. David teaches away from supporting a lower surface of its fluid bag because such support would interfere with the fluid outlet port positioned on a lower surface of the fluid bag. Moreover, supporting David's fluid bag on a lower surface may interfere with the gravitational, hanging characteristics of the fluid bag and therefore may hinder flow of fluid from the fluid outlet port on the lower surface of David's fluid bag. For these reasons Applicant believes new claim 23 is not taught or suggested by David, and is in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests the same.


By this Response Applicant has added new claim 24 that is dependent on independent claim 15 and recites "said horizontal support member is structured to immovably support an artist work piece." Support for this amendment is shown in Applicant's FIGS. 1 and 2 which show work piece 80 immovably secured on the horizontal support member 54. Immovable support of work piece 80 allows an artist to work on artist work piece 80 without the work piece swinging, pivoting or otherwise moving on support member 54. David does not teach or suggest structure for immovably supporting an artist work piece. For this reason Applicant believes new claim 24 is in condition for allowance and Applicant respectfully requests the same.

Claims 7-10, 21 and 22 have been indicated as allowed.

Conclusion

All pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner should have any questions regarding this Amendment, a call to Applicant's counsel, Ms. Ingrid M. McTaggart at (503) 230-7934, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via first class mail, with sufficient postage, to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 31st day of May, 2007.

Ingrid McTaggart